Library offers Polaroid service

BEST SHOT—Camas Librarian Ruth Eveland examines a photo taken on the new Polaroid Land camera the photographic corporation donated to the Library as part of a nation-wide camera giveaway. Borrowers can check out the cameras for up to one week but must buy their own film. PHOTO by Jim Gersbach using the Polaroid camera with its built-in flash.

Paperbacks and Polaroids. Residents can borrow either at the Camas Library since three Land cameras arrived this spring.

The cameras were among 20,000 distributed free to libraries around the country by Polaroid. Registered patrons 16 and older may borrow the cameras for up to a week.

Librarian Ruth Eveland said the cameras, which have a $75 list price, have a built-in automatic flash which makes taking photos indoors or outside equally easy. The cameras take 3-inch by 3½-inch photos that develop in as little as a minute. Borrowers, however, must buy their own film.

Eveland said boosting film sales may be a major motive for Polaroid's generosity. But she's not complaining about the gift cameras.

She said patrons may find the instant cameras useful for recording a variety of occasions, such as relatives' unexpected visits.

The cameras are also good for taking photos of school projects or experiments, for inventorying possessions for insurance purposes, for taking snapshots of club installations or group events, or for graduations and weddings.

Homeowners holding garage sales can borrow the camera to photograph articles for sale. The photos can then be displayed on signs advertising the sale, increasing interest.

The cameras can even record moments we'd all rather forget but which insurance agents usually expect to see for proof. Those events include car wrecks and windstorms in which trees fall on top of one's house.